



ICCTA

2026
ICCTA
Awards Banquet



FRIDAY, JUNE 5, 2026
LOMBARD, IL

Color/doodle in the ICCTA logo below and
share it on social media with the hashtag

#ILCCTrustees

and tag us @ILCCTrustees on Facebook, X
(Twitter), or LinkedIn



Tonight's Program

WELCOME

Patricia Joan Murphy, ICCTA President

INVOCATION

Reverend Lee Johnson

RECOGNITION OF SPECIAL GUESTS

President Murphy

GUEST SPEAKERS

Dr. Sylvia M. Jenkins, Chair, ICCB

Jee Hang Lee, President/CEO ACCT

Dr. DeRionne P. Pollard, President/CEO AACC

PRESENTATION & GROUP PHOTOS OF

AWARD NOMINEES

Shawn Boldt, ICCTA Vice-President

DINNER

ANNOUNCEMENT & RECOGNITION OF

AWARD WINNERS

President Murphy






Business/Industry Partnership Award

The Business/Industry Partnership Award recognizes Illinois businesses that have built successful workforce-training alliances with their local community colleges.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Caldwell Lifting Solutions** and Highland Community College
 - **Dynamic Manufacturing** and Triton College
 - **Endeavor Health** and Oakton College
 - **Fischer Paper Products** and College of Lake County
 - **Ford Motor Company** and Parkland College
 - **General Mills** and Rock Valley College
 - **O'Shea Builders** and Lincoln Land Community College
 - **SSM Health** and Kaskaskia College
 - **Syngenta Crop Protection, LLC** and Rend Lake College
- 



Equity & Diversity Award

The Equity and Diversity Award recognizes exemplary commitment by an Illinois public community college board and its chief executive officer to achieve diversity, equity, and inclusion in the college's education programs.


Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Joliet Junior College**
- **Oakton College**
- **Rock Valley College**
- **South Suburban College**

Gary W. Davis Ethical Leadership Award

The Gary W. Davis Ethical Leadership Award honors individuals who have made an outstanding contribution to the pursuit and support of ethical leadership and decision-making in their fields of work and volunteer service.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Kenneth Ingersoll**, Kaskaskia College
 - **Murneka Davis**, Morton College
 - **Chris Schmersahl**, Richland Community College
- 



Gandhi/King Peace Essay Scholarship

Endowed by Jody Wadhwa and the Oakton College Educational Foundation.

The Gandhi/King Peace Essay Scholarship provides a one-time \$750 stipend to the Illinois community college student who best articulates the peaceful messages of Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Lichang Zheng**, College of Lake County
 - **Ivan Zavala**, Elgin Community College
 - **Mia Lescano**, Heartland Community College
 - **Cooper Lamps**, Illinois Valley Community College
 - **Clara Elliott**, Kaskaskia College
 - **Alanna Nelson**, Kishwaukee College
 - **Shanel Brown**, Malcolm X College
 - **Gabriela Acosta**, McHenry County College
 - **Tiarra Washington**, Moraine Valley Community College
 - **Ilyas Sidiqian**, Oakton College
 - **Jaden Chandler**, Triton College
- 



PSC/Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence Award

Sponsored by Prairie State College

Student trustees created this award in 1997 to recognize exemplary leadership by their peers. The recipient will receive a \$1,000 stipend for educational expenses.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Daniel Gidlund**, Elgin Community College
 - **Aemun Lopeyok**, Heartland Community College
 - **Rachel Salazar**, Highland Community College
 - **Danica Scoma**, Illinois Valley Community College
 - **Meagan Mahlandt**, Kaskaskia College
 - **Diego Gonzalez Zabala**, Kishwaukee College
 - **Jay Bliler**, Lake Land College
 - **Adalyn Blimling**, Lincoln Land Community College
 - **Chris AbiNader**, Oakton College
 - **Grace Ojo**, South Suburban College
- 



Paul Simon Essay Scholarship

*Sponsored by the Illinois Community College System
Foundation*

Named after the late U.S. Senator and cofounder of the Illinois community college system, the Paul Simon Student Essay Scholarship provides a one-time \$1,000 stipend to the student who best describes “How My Community College Has Changed My Life.”

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Sadie Saller**, College of Lake County
 - **Gwenna Germo**, Elgin Community College
 - **Bennet Georgas**, Heartland Community College
 - **Jessica Deininger**, Illinois Central College
 - **McKinzie Tarbox**, Illinois Valley Community College
 - **Brenton Bishop**, Joliet Junior College
 - **Clara Elliott**, Kaskaskia College
 - **Woodfin Billingsly**, Kishwaukee College
 - **Jasmine Gast**, Lake Land College
 - **Brandon Price**, Lincoln Land Community College
 - **Jocelyn Aguirre**, McHenry County College
 - **Kelly Wilson**, Moraine Valley Community College
- 

Paul Simon Essay Scholarship - continued

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Natori Nieves**, Morton College
- **Joseph Park**, Oakton College
- **Rachael Pender**, Richland Community College
- **Krystina Vinyard**, Southeastern Illinois College
- **Riley Rueben Jirsa**, Triton College

Gregg Chadwick Student Service Award

Sponsored by the Illinois Community College System Foundation

ICCTA's newest scholarship honors the community-focused legacy of 2020-2021 ICCTA president Gregg Chadwick of Heartland Community College. The recipient will receive a \$1,000 stipend for educational expenses.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Tarin Noga**, College of Lake County
- **Sara Sandoval**, Heartland Community College
- **Danica Scoma**, Illinois Valley Community College
- **Allison Meese**, Lake Land College
- **Sandra Adu Serwaa**, Moraine Valley Community College
- **Karma Davis**, South Suburban College
- **Dylan Ramirez**, Triton College



Lifelong Learning Award

The Lifelong Learning Award celebrates the accomplishments of Illinois community college students who have used their college as a resource on multiple occasions.


Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Tapriiece Bell**, Illinois Central College
- **Megen Berg**, Illinois Valley Community College
- **Meghan Pinter**, Kishwaukee College
- **Dominique Hicks**, Moraine Valley Community College

Pacesetter Award

The Pacesetter Award recognizes the accomplishments of Illinois' recent community college graduates. Nominees must have completed a recognized program of instruction (including dual credit courses) or attended at least 30 semester hours at an Illinois public community college after June 30, 2015.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- 
- **Victor Dantas**, Carl Sandburg College
 - **Jacqueline Bjes**, College of DuPage
 - **Dr. Jazmine Stubblefield**, Illinois Central College

Pacesetter Award - continued

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Zulma Guzman**, Illinois Valley Community College
- **Nic Turner**, Lake Land College
- **Ryan Wilson**, Lincoln Land Community College

Distinguished Alumnus Award

This honor symbolizes the professional, technical and humanitarian accomplishments of those individuals who have graduated from Illinois community colleges.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Brittany Clark**, Carl Sandburg College
- **Pamela McLean Meyerson**, College of DuPage
- **Dr. Dorothy Jean Tillman, II**, College of Lake County
- **Katrina Syrris**, Elgin Community College
- **Jeremiah Fletcher**, Heartland Community College
- **Tamisha Bonvillain**, Highland Community College
- **Ray D'Alessio**, Illinois Valley Community College
- **Megan Orange**, John A. Logan College



Distinguished Alumnus Award - continued


Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Michael Mutterer**, Joliet Junior College
- **Dr. Maryann Langenfeld**, Kaskaskia College
- **Andy Sullivan**, Kishwaukee College
- **Stephen Anderson**, Lake Land College
- **Patrick Pianezza**, Lincoln Land Community College
- **Brian Swift**, Moraine Valley Community College
- **Broderick Hollins, Sr.**, Oakton College
- **Scott Tashakkor**, Richland Community College
- **Bing Liu**, Rock Valley College
- **Dr. Ashley Clark**, Shawnee Community College
- **Captain Jacob “Atlas” Vaughan**, Southeastern Illinois College
- **Hugo Saltijeral**, Waubensee Community College

Professional Board Staff Member Award

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association's Professional Board Staff Members Award recognizes exemplary professional service to an Illinois community college board.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- 
- **Nora Dukowitz**, Heartland Community College
 - **Karyn Reczek**, Joliet Junior College
 - **Mary Dellert**, Lincoln Land Community College
 - **Joanna Martin**, Morton College
 - **Christin Miller**, South Suburban College
 - **Colleen Rice**, William Rainey Harper College

Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award

This award honors Illinois' part-time community college instructors and their invaluable contributions to their students and institutions.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Sherry Maurer**, Black Hawk College
- **Becky Echelberger**, Carl Sandburg College
- **Amy Wasko**, College of DuPage
- **Dr. Carlotta Conley**, College of Lake County
- **Jeanne Anderson**, Elgin Community College
- **Sonja Workman**, Heartland Community College
- **M'Kenzee Smith**, Illinois Valley Community College
- **David Shaw**, Joliet Junior College
- **Dr. Jennifer Roberts**, Kishwaukee College
- **Jackie Cooper**, Lewis & Clark Community College
- **Jon Churchill**, Lincoln Land Community College
- **Dr. Ashley Givhens**, Malcolm X College
- **Olivia Ridge**, McHenry County College
- **Paul Ross Thomas**, Morton College
- **Michael Doocy**, Oakton College
- **Jeremy Jang**, Parkland College



Outstanding Adjunct Faculty Member Award - continued

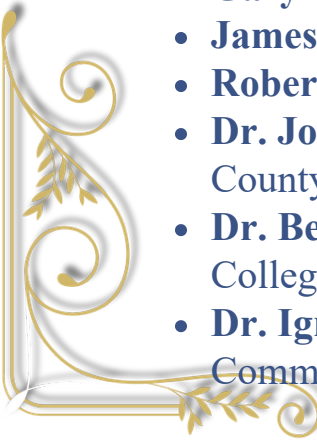
Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Ralph Moore**, Prairie State College
- **Garrik McConnell**, Rend Lake College
- **Jennifer Thompson**, Rock Valley College
- **Elisa Gatz**, Sauk Valley Community College
- **Brianne Foster**, Southwestern Illinois College
- **Magdalena Kruszynska-Piper**, Triton College
- **Audrey Farrell**, Waubensee Community College
- **Mary Horstman**, William Rainey Harper College

Full Time Faculty Award

This award honors Illinois' full-time community college instructors – the heart and soul of our educational institutions.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- 
- **Gary Werkheiser**, Black Hawk College
 - **James Sanders**, Carl Sandburg College
 - **Robert Plank**, College of DuPage
 - **Dr. Joana Pabedinskas**, College of Lake County
 - **Dr. Ben Jun**, Danville Area Community College
 - **Dr. Ignacio Alvarez-Garcia**, Elgin Community College

Full Time Faculty Award - continued

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Chris Miller**, Heartland Community College
- **Michael Skwara**, Highland Community College
- **Dr. Jonathan Hubbell**, Illinois Valley Community College
- **Rebecca Corbit**, John A. Logan College
- **John Reinhardt, III**, John Wood Community College
- **Meaghan Callan**, Joliet Junior College
- **Adam Hughes**, Kishwaukee College
- **Michael Beavers**, Lake Land College
- **Laurenn York**, Lincoln Land Community College
- **Dr. Sherece Thompson**, Malcolm X College
- **Bob Mihelich**, McHenry County College
- **Dr. Amani Wazwaz**, Moraine Valley Community College
- **Dr. Tom Pierce**, Morton College
- **Ji-Hyae Park**, Oakton College
- **Janice Grewatz**, Parkland College
- **Chad Vlietstra**, Prairie State College
- **Dr. Elizabeth Bailey-Smith**, Rend Lake College
- **Jerry LaBuy**, Rock Valley College
- **Therese Wood**, Sauk Valley Community College
- **David Black**, Shawnee Community College
- **Dr. Herman Stark**, South Suburban College
- **Sabrina Stout**, Southeastern Illinois College
- **Carla Bills**, Southwestern Illinois College
- **Todd Thompson**, Spoon River College
- **Rebecca Fournier**, Triton College
- **Dr. Lisa Fozio-Thielk**, Waubensee Community College
- **Margaret Bilos**, William Rainey Harper College

Advocacy Award

The ICCTA Executive Committee created this special award to honor individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in advocating for the needs of students and the Illinois community college system.

Congratulations to our 2026 Recipient:



Dr. Avis Proctor

Dr. Avis Proctor has served as president of William Rainey Harper College since 2019, bringing more than 30 years of experience in education and higher education leadership.

Certificates of Merit

The Certificate of Merit is presented to individuals who have made significant contributions to ICCTA, the Illinois system, or an individual college.

- **Dr. Lori Suddick**, President, College of Lake County
- **Christina Kuberski**, President, Highland Community College
- **Dr. Sheila Quirk-Bailey**, President, Illinois Central College
- **Ryan Gower, Ph.D.**, Chancellor, Illinois Eastern Community Colleges
- **Dr. Charlotte Warren**, President, Lincoln Land Community College
- **Dr. David Hellmich**, President, Sauk Valley Community College

Trustee Service Awards

This honor recognizes the Illinois community college system's longtime public servants.

Congratulations to our 2026 Recipients:

- 25-Year Award
 - **Frances Reitz**, Morton College
 - **Terry Wells**, South Suburban College
- 35-Year Award
 - **Jim Beasley**, Kaskaskia College
 - **Mark Stephens**, Triton College
- 40-Year Award
 - **John “Bill” Hawley**, Kaskaskia College

Honorary Membership

ICCTA's Lifetime Membership provides an opportunity for community colleges to recognize their retiring board members.

Congratulations to our 2026 Recipient:



Kim Villanueva

Kim Villanueva, spent 40 plus years with the Illinois Community College Trustees Association, where she led communications and legislative advocacy efforts supporting Illinois community colleges. Kim now serves as the president of National Organization for

Women, and is a longtime feminist and LGBTQIA+ advocate whose leadership has advanced reproductive freedom, voting rights, and equality through grassroots organizing and policy change.




Michael S. Monaghan Meritorious Service Award

This honor is given to elected/appointed officials and other friends of community colleges who have contributed to the advancement of the Trustees Association and community college education in Illinois. Currently serving trustees and presidents are not eligible for nomination.

Our 2026 Recipient will be revealed live during the program, so stay tuned for a special surprise announcement!

President's Award

The ICCTA President's Award is given at the sole discretion of the current ICCTA President, Patricia Joan Murphy. The award celebrates an "unsung hero" who has supported ICCTA and the community colleges.



Our 2026 Recipient will be revealed live during the program, so stay tuned for a special surprise announcement!



Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award

The Ray Hartstein Trustee Achievement Award recognizes a trustee whose exemplary board service and leadership sets the standard for outstanding trusteeship in Illinois.

Congratulations to our 2026 Nominees:

- **Robert J. Thompson**, Sauk Valley Community College
- **Janet Rogers**, South Suburban College

Share Your Photos

Help us capture and celebrate the memorable moments from tonight's ICCTA Awards Banquet! We invite you to share your photos and favorite highlights on social media using #ILCCTrustees.

#ILCCTrustees
@ILCCTRUSTEES





Thank You

2025-2026 ICCTA Officers

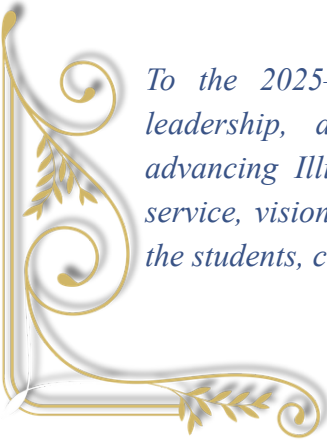
Patricia Joan Murphy, President
Moraine Valley Community College

Shawn Boldt, Vice President
Highland Community College

Amanda Howland, Secretary
College of Lake County

Laura Wedekemper, Treasurer
Kaskaskia College

Bishop Wayne Dunning, Past President
Richland Community College



To the 2025–2026 ICCTA Officers, thank you for your leadership, dedication, and unwavering commitment to advancing Illinois community colleges this past year. Your service, vision, and advocacy have made a lasting impact on the students, colleges, and communities we proudly serve.

2025-2026 Awards Committee Members

Fritz Larsen, Chair
Black Hawk College

Pennie Groezinger, Vice Chair
Highland Community College

Flo Appel
College of DuPage

Tom Whitt
Heartland Community College

Denise Walk
Lake Land College

Maureen Banks
Parkland Community College

Diane Harris
Joliet Junior College

Janet Rogers
South Suburban College

Mandy Little
John A. Logan College

Dave Maguire
Spoon River College

James Meyer
Harper College

Dawn Abernathy
College of Lake County

Jim Ayers
Parkland College

Laura Wedekemper
Kaskaskia College

Amanda Howland
College of Lake County

Samantha Enz
Lincoln Land Community College

John Nelson
Rock Valley College

Bishop Wayne Dunning
Richland Community College

Maureen Broderick
Joliet Junior College

Janet Hood
Heartland Community College



In Memoriam

Peter Akemann

Trustee

Elgin Community College

Terry Bruce

Honorary ICCTA Member

Former CEO of Illinois Eastern
Community Colleges
Illinois Community College Board

John Duffy

Trustee

Elgin Community College

Jerry Hagmeier

Trustee

John Wood Community College

Richard Morgan

Trustee

Southeastern Illinois College

Michael Proctor

Trustee

Kankakee Community College



Tom Ritter

Trustee

Richland Community College

Richard Roehrkas

Trustee

Southwestern Illinois College

Thank You!

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Scholarship Sponsors

Illinois Community College System Foundation –

Gregg Chadwick Student Service & Paul Simon Student Essay

Mr. Jody Wadha/Oakton College Educational Foundation – Gandhi/King Peace Essay

Prairie State College – Gigi Campbell Student Trustee Excellence

Mission Statement

ICCTA supports all public community college trustees through information exchange, training, and advocacy to assist them in effective leadership locally and statewide.

Vision Statement

All Illinois community college trustees will effectively lead their institutions and districts.

D.E.I. Statement

The Illinois Community College Trustees Association encourages and supports the commitment of each of our member institutions to provide equitable educational opportunities for all. We welcome the diversity on our campuses and recognize its benefit to the education of all students as they prepare for success in an increasingly complex world.

ICCTA

Illinois Community College Trustees Association

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1-800-454-2282

www.communitycolleges.org